

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06899 250705Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9358

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 6899

PASS TREASURY FOR PARSKY, COMMERCE FOR HOSTELER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID

SUBJECT: US/SAUDI JOINT COMMISSION: STANDARDS ADVISOR

REF: A. JIDDA 6626 B. JIDDA 6247

1. PLEASE ADVISE STATUS OF NBS ADVISOR ASAP. WITH MR. DAVID KHOURY PROCEEDING TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS' INVOLVEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIAN STANDARDS ORGANIZATION, IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WE KNOW, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HOW THE CORPS PROGRAM WOULD FIT INTO OVER-ALL SASO ADVISORY PROGRAM UNDER JOINT COMMISSION.

2. IN PARTICULAR, WE FEEL WASHINGTON SHOULD NOT RELY ON MR. KHOURY TO SERVE AS THE GENERAL ADVISOR WHICH WE AND SASO HAVE REQUESTED. MR. KHOURY IMPRESSES US AS AN EXTREMELY COMPETENT INDIVIDUAL, BUT THE COMMENTS IN REFTELS A AND B REGARDING KIND OF ADVISOR NEEDED TO GET A GRIP ON OVER-ALL SASO ACTIVITIES AND NEEDS STILL APPLY. WE REALIZE THE TASK MAY LOOK IMPOSING FROM THE WASHINGTON VIEWPOINT, BUT THE ONLY WAY TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE ULTIMATE PROJECT IS TO SEND AN ADVISOR TO THE FIELD WHO CAN MAKE A BEGINNING. WE ARE WELL AWARE THAT FINAL CONSTRUCTION OF A COMPLETE ADVISORY TEAM TO COVER A NUMBER OF YEARS MAY BE BEYOND SUCH AN ADVISOR'S CAPABILITIES, BUT HE CAN CERTAINLY IRON OUT MOST OF THE WRINKLES AND GO FAR TOWARD DEFINING THE

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 06899 250705Z

FINAL QUESTIONS WHICH MAY BE ASKED. IT IS ALSO

FEASIBLE TO SEND TWO ADVISORS. SINCE MR. KHOURY IS HERE, ONE ADVISOR ON NON-CONSTRUCTION TYPE STANDARDS FROM NBS AND ONE FROM FDA MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE. THE THREE COULD THEN WORK TOGETHER TO SET UP AN APPROPRIATE PROGRAM. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS THE DESPATCH OF A GENERALIST, MANAGEMENT TYPE ACCOMPANIED BY A SPECIALIST.

3. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT NBS AND CONCERNED AGENCIES COMMUNICATE TO US ANY AND ALL HESITATION CONCERNING FUNDING AND/OR ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MADE IN THE FIELD IF SUCH FEARS EXIST. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED TO LEARN VIA THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, RATHER THAN THROUGH REGULAR CHANNELS THAT NBS IS UNLIKELY TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO SAUDI ARABIA BEFORE THE END OF 1974. WE HOPE THIS WILL NOT BE THE CASE.

ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM STATUS OF STANDARDS ADVISOR AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FROM FIELD.

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